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MAR 25 1925

# **World's Choicest Dahlias**



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ONE OF THE MEDALS AWARDED

COLLECTION OF  
**Mr. and Mrs. LEO RITTER**  
• **8118 Bay Parkway**  
**Brooklyn, N. Y.**





These Prizes and others were awarded to us by the American Dahlia Society and the Horticultural Society of New York at Flower Exhibition.



# DAHLIAS



FOR some eight years we have grown and experimented in dahlias. Each year we would get catalogues from California and other parts of the country, visit dahlia shows, buy additional varieties, better varieties, newer varieties, buy and buy, every year every variety that appealed to us, paying as high as \$50.00 for a bulb.

We found that some of these selections looked gorgeous at the shows, beautiful (description) in the catalogues, but poor in the garden. We gave each variety a fair trial, all that proved poor in bloom in habit, we would discard, harboring in our gardens only the best, those nearest to perfection.

Selling flowers and tubers is not our business; we grow them only for the pleasure. Dahlia bulbs increase some three to tenfold yearly. Up to season 1924-25 we have never derived one penny for neither cut flowers or bulbs, always distributing the surplus gratis. We have given large choice collection of tubers to New York, Brooklyn, Newark and Orange Parks and other public and charitable institutions, to school teachers, police officers and friends, free of charge. Here is one letter of acknowledgment.

CITY OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS  
Borough of Manhattan  
Municipal Building

September 19, 1923.

Mr. Leo Ritter,  
Pacific Finance Corporation,  
47 West 34th Street, City.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your communication of the 18th inst., requesting permission to take some of your Dahlias from Terrace Bridge in Central Park for exhibition at the coming Dahlia Exhibition, would say that it would be rather selfish on our part not to allow you to have a few of these beautiful flowers from the two hundred or more plants that you have so kindly allowed this department to use to beautify this part of the park. They have given great joy to many people who have admired their beauty.

I can say with great sincerity that of the great number of donations given during my experience in horticulture, I have never had the pleasure of seeing plants of the best varieties given away but rather the stock that cannot be used.

The Commissioner also wishes to express his thanks to you for your donation of plants, and has granted permission to put up two signs, one in each bed, with the names of the exhibitors.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) WESLEY B. LEACH,  
Forester.

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We have also distributed cut flowers to many public hospitals, churches, etc., gratis. Just a couple of acknowledgments:

UNITED  
ISRAEL - ZION HOSPITAL  
Tenth Avenue  
Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth Streets  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

May 22, 1924.

Mrs. Leo Ritter,  
8118 Bay Parkway,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Ritter:

Accept an expression of our very grateful appreciation of the beautiful flowers which you distributed as a donation among the wards of our Institution.

It is through you and others like you that we shall be enabled to furnish added comforts to our patients. With renewed expression of our appreciation, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

UNITED ISRAEL-ZION HOSPITAL,  
(Signed) Newman Dube,  
President.



BETH DAVID HOSPITAL  
(Non-Sectarian)  
Lexington Avenue at 113th Street  
New York City

May 14, 1923.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Ritter.  
47 West 34th Street,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Ritter:

On behalf of the Beth David Hospital, I beg to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for your contribution of flowers to the patients in our Institution.

Your generous action has been the means of brightening the stay of our patients in the hospital, and has added very materially to their comfort and enjoyment, and we herewith also desire to express our thanks in their behalf.

Cordially yours,

BETH DAVID HOSPITAL,  
(Signed) Morris Lang,  
Secretary.

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SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT  
THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL  
Fifth Avenue and 100th Street  
New York

Mr. and Mrs. Ritter:  
Dear Friends:

The members of the Social Service Auxiliary wish to thank you for the very beautiful flowers you so kindly left for our poor sufferers, and to assure you of their and our appreciation.

May the Almighty bless you and yours for the good you are doing to others.

Sincerely,

(Signed) ANGIE JACOBSON,  
Secretary.

May 23, 1923

We shall be glad to supply collection of dahlia tubers, our choice to public or charitable institutions that are accessible to our observation, free on the following conditions:

1. That they will be grown only on their own grounds and for their own use.
2. That they will not be offered for sale or otherwise disposed of.
3. That a suitable place and proper care will be accorded them.

After supplying the public parks and institutions, instead of giving away the surplus stock promiscuously as in the past, which has been misused in many cases, we now offer them for sale at prices not as listed in some catalogs up to \$50.00, but \$5.00 down. In our opinion \$5.00 is a good price for any dahlia in creation over one year in the market. The proceeds in the sale of the tubers will go to the Israel Zion Hospital, 10th Avenue, 49th to 50th Streets, Brooklyn, N. Y., which hospital is very generously serving the poor and the sick, also to other charitable institutions and purposes.

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### CONDITION OF SALE

In view of the reasonable prices we charge and quality of the stock, we deliver, we desire to eliminate all unnecessary effort and expense, therefore, no goods are sent C. O. D. or on open account. Remit in full with order with explicit confidence. You will not be taken advantage of in the slightest; you can revise, countermand, all or any part of your order at any time before shipment is actually made, all money will be cheerfully and promptly refunded.

We guarantee to deliver all roots healthy, and in good condition. If not so found, notify us immediately and we will replace or refund. Our guarantee does not cover beyond that. The well growing of any plant depends on experience, care, location, weather, insects, etc. How can we guarantee all that?

We prepay postage on all orders over \$2.50. On order of less than \$2.50 please add 25c postage, insurance and packing. We make no shipment before May 1st. Instructions how to grow dahlias are sent with each shipment. If you want good flowers use our instructions; don't follow the advice of friends and newspapers.

The collections in this catalog are the choicest in dahliadom. The descriptions are not gotten up by us but are the descriptions given by the originators. Of course the best way to make your selection is to see the flowers in bloom, or send an open order, state your desire as to color, price and quantity and leave it to us.

Our gardens are on Bay Parkway (formerly 22nd Avenue) between 81st and 82nd Streets, Brooklyn. During the blooming season it's a sight worth seeing and is open to the public. May be reached by B. M. T. Subway, West End Train, alight Bay Parkway Station. By auto take the road to Coney Island, when on Ocean Parkway, turn right on Bay Parkway to 81st Street.

The letters after each name designates the type.

D stands for Decorative. C for Cactus. HC for Hybrid Cactus.  
P for Peony. S for Show.

No.		Price
3.	<b>AMBASSADOR (C).</b> Soft yellow buff, shaded salmon pink. The flowers are of pleasing form and of enormous size. These splendid flowers are held erect on strong stems, are excellent keepers for exhibition purposes and invariably get the prize for the "Largest Dahlia".....Tubers	\$5.00
4.	<b>ALEX WALDIE (D).</b> One of the most beautiful decorative dahlias; flowers large, held well above foliage on fine stems, coloring being unsurpassed, a creamy ground overlaid with a delicate salmon pink.....Tubers	2.50
7.	<b>AMUN RA (D).</b> An immense decorative of an entirely new formation, resembling the glorious setting sun. The outer petals of the mammoth blooms are of gorgeous shades of copper and orange, shading to gold and amber and deepening in the large full center to a rich dark, reddish bronze. The stems are wonderful, erect and stout and hold the immense blossoms well above a strong, vigorous plant.....Tubers	2.50
28.	<b>BASHFUL GIANT (D).</b> This is unquestionably the largest flowering dahlia ever produced—the gigantic blooms are excellent for exhibition where size is one of the requisites—it is also of great merit for its beautiful color, being apricot with golden shadings. Flowers are produced on stout stems.Tubers	4.00
50.	<b>CATHERINE COOPER (D).</b> Large flowers of fine form, good stems and habit; rosy lavender in color.....Tubers	1.50
100.	<b>EVELYN ADAMSON (D).</b> The color of this lovely Dahlia is so unusual that we confess we do not know how to describe it, unless we call it fawn pink, becoming lighter in color and more beautiful as the flower matures; large, well-formed flowers..Tubers	2.00

No.	Price
102. <b>ETHEL MOWER (D).</b> Fine large flower, exceptionally good grower and very free; an exquisite shade of shell pink, carried on long stiff stems, fine exhibition variety..Tubers	4.00
103. <b>EDITH SLOCOMBE (Novelty).</b> A true hybrid cactus; finely formed flowers carried on long wiry stems; of a wonderful shade of rich fuchsia-garnet, or shaded velvet maroon—a most striking flower, the twisted and curled petal showing the beautiful combination of color makes this an unusually attractive variety .....Tubers	2.50
106. <b>EARLE WILLIAMS (D).</b> Giant flowering dahlia, color of a brilliant crimson and white well distributed. Free bloomer; one of the finest and most attractive dahlias ever introduced .....Tubers	2.00
107. <b>EL DORADO (D).</b> Size, stem and color of this variety are of the best. Picture a low growing bush with immense golden blooms which stands up and looks you in the face. A prize winner of a vivid gold which is deeper at base of the petals.....Tubers	5.00
130. <b>J. W. DAVIS (D).</b> The coloring is of the deep shade of cerise at the center and graduating to a lighter tint, the blending of the two shades of cerise creates an entirely new effect. Profuse bloomer, fine stem and very fine for cutting.....Tubers	3.50
151. <b>GENERAL MILES (S).</b> One of the largest flower amongst the show types. Petals are all perfect and come in the shape of a perfect ball; color is a pretty shade of dark red. Tubers .....Tubers	1.00
153. <b>GLADYS SHERWOOD (D).</b> An immense cream-white blossom, very deep and full to the center, having long, wide satiny pointed petals that glisten in the sun. Flowers held erect on strong stiff stems; does not sunburn and is a fine garden or exhibition dahlia. Tubers .....Tubers	1.00

No.		Price
154.	<b>GEORGE WALTERS (HC).</b> Salmon with a golden sheen, profuse bloomer, perfect stems; a flower that should be in every garden .....Tubers	.60
176.	<b>HORTULANUS FIET (D).</b> Large flowers of an exquisite shade of salmon pink, shading to yellow in the center.....Tubers	1.00
177.	<b>HELEN KELLER (D).</b> Large, beautiful pink dahlia named in honor of the world's most noted woman .....Tubers	1.00
200.	<b>MRS. I. deVER WARNER (D).</b> A blossom of soft orchid coloring seldom appearing in the gay garb of the dahlia family. For its charming color, large blooms, and for its very long, strong, wiry stems this variety immediately attracts attention wherever grown or exhibited. It is a refined deep mauve pink; beautifully formed, exquisite shade and acknowledged by all dahlia experts who have had the pleasure of growing it to be one of the finest dahlias ever produced .....Tubers	3.50
225.	<b>JOHN LEWIS CHILDS (D).</b> One of the very best "fancy" of any type. A bronze suffused, splashed and striped with brilliant scarlet and generally tipped white. All fancy or bi-colored dahlias occasionally have a flower of solid color. Size immense, stem stiff, and a good bloomer.....Tubers	2.00
226.	<b>JUDGE MAREAN (D).</b> Very large flower of perfect type and difficult to describe, produced very freely on strong, stiff stems. A blending of glowing salmon, pink, red, iridescent orange, yellow and pure gold. One of the most beautiful dahlias ever created, and should be in every garden.....Tubers	2.50
227.	<b>JUDGE ALTON B. PARKER (D).</b> A wonderful exhibition variety, of true decorative form, very large flowers grow freely on strong stems; color, golden buff.....Tubers	2.50

No.		Price
230.	<b>JERSEY'S JEWEL (D).</b> Mallow pink, very large, long petaled flowers, on good stems. A splendid exhibition variety, flowers can be had nine inches without disbudding. Certificated A. D. S. 1923. Winner of many first prizes the past year.....Tubers	5.00
231.	<b>JERSEY'S BEAUTY (D).</b> Very fine true pink, flowers of perfect shape, produced on long, straight, stiff stems. Very free bloomer, and a splendid keeper. Certificated A. D. S. 1923. Winner of several gold medals the past year, and winner of the highest award at Storrs, Conn.....Tubers	10.00
275.	<b>LE GRAND MANITOU (D).</b> A large flower; white, streaked with violet purple...Tubers	.50
278.	<b>LADDIE (D).</b> Soft, yellow-shaded orange, the brilliant orange tint in the depth of the flower gives it a glowing appearance that is fascinating. Large flowers are produced in profusion and are held erect on strong stems—a most desirable cut flower..Tubers	2.00
281.	<b>LADY BETTY (D).</b> It is a very large, finely formed flower, produced on strong, stiff stem of a most attractive and lovely color. It is creamy white with a pinkish suffusion. Tubers .....	2.00
282.	<b>LADY HELEN (H. C.).</b> Standing erect on long stems with finely formed and curled petals spreading out. It is a beautiful pink with slight veins of white, almost cream, running through the petals. A profuse bloomer .....	1.75
285.	<b>LA GROSSE BETE (D).</b> An enormous flower held straight upon strong stems of a cerise self color, a strong grower and a splendid exhibition variety.....Tubers	2.50

No.	Price
301. <b>MRS. E. L. LINDSEY (D).</b> Scarlet and gold; reproduced in an enormous full-centered decorative, the color varies on different blooms, but the two colors are always in evidence; the immense flowers are on strong stems; keeps well as a cut flower...Tubers	2.75
304. <b>MAID OF THE MIST (D).</b> This magnificent dahlia has been a prize winner ever since it was a seedling. The flowers are a beautiful cream color shading to a salmon pink, the outer petals are rolled back to a depth of four to five inches pointed and twisted. Long flowers, profuse bloomer.....Tubers	7.50
305. <b>MEPHISTOPHELES (D).</b> As an exhibition flower this dahlia has no peer; enormous blooms held perfectly erect on gigantic stout stems. Plants are of extraordinary vigor and free flowering. Color is ruby-red, showing an infinitesimal golden yellow point at the very end of the petals, thereby greatly enhancing its effectiveness.....Tubers	4.00
306. <b>MRS. JOSIAH T. MAREAN (P).</b> The flowers are of extra large size carried on strong wiry stems; the color is unrivaled as to merit for beauty; old rose with golden shadings at base of flower. Profuse bloomer and vigorous grower. An exceptional exhibition variety that will be loved by all. Tubers .....	4.00
307. <b>MILLIONAIRE (D).</b> Gold Medal dahlia of the daintiest coloring. Most delicate lavender with a faint pink cast overshadowing it. The immense flower of unusual depth, stands erect on its stems. This one is of the largest dahlias grown.....Tubers	.75
310. <b>MRS. JOHN SCHEEPERS (D).</b> Upon opening the flowers are clear, canary yellow, which is gradually changed to a beautiful, delicate shade of pink suffusion on the outer petals .....	4.00



No.		Price
314.	<b>MRS. ETHEL F. T. SMITH (D).</b> Broad petals of cream, shading to lemon. Gigantic bloom on a fine stem, free flowering..Tubers	1.00
316.	<b>MRS. WOODROW WILSON (D).</b> A large graceful flower of wonderful beauty. The color is pale yellow at center, changing to white at tips, thickly splashed and striped with bright crimson. This is a sport from President Wilson and is sold with the understanding that it may come as the President .....Tubers	4.00
375.	<b>PRESIDENT WILSON (D).</b> President Wilson is second to no decorative dahlia in this country today. It always wins when shown here. It is very large, extremely attractive, with fine stems. I consider it one of the few real leaders. The color is a light crimson, each petal distinctly tipped with white. Tubers .....	2.00
426.	<b>ROSA NELL (D).</b> Clear bright rose color, flowers very large, fine for exhibition, good keeper, one of the best shaped decorative dahlias in existence; is a rare color and attracts immediate attention wherever seen. Tubers .....	2.00
427.	<b>ROSEMAWR (D).</b> Immense flowers, rich rose pink, dwarf branching habit; a real fine decorative .....Tubers	1.00
428.	<b>RED ROVER (D).</b> Rich crimson-red; flowers are extra large, composed of very broad flat petals, held erect on finest possible stems. This is one of the best and is among the leaders.....Tubers	3.00
429.	<b>ROSA BONHEAUR (HC).</b> A very beautiful shade of mellow pink shading to white in center. The flowers are large, free bloomer, one admired by almost everybody...Tubers	3.00

No.	Price
451. <b>SHUDOW'S LAVENDER (D).</b> The very large bloom is a silvery lavender slightly shading to white. In hot weather the white will be more marked, but as the season advances will almost entirely disappear. The stem is perfect, long and stiff, and holds erect the big blossom.....Tubers	4.50
452. <b>SNOWDRIFT (D).</b> One of the best white decoratives we have ever seen. A very deep built immense flower, with broad, waxy, pure white petals. The blooms open quickly, remaining perfect for a week. Fine for exhibition .....Tubers	1.00
453. <b>SUNBEAM (D).</b> A very large and beautiful flower on long stems; the color is bright red faintly striped with gold.....Tubers	2.00
455. <b>SUSAN COE (P).</b> A splendid flower of perfect form and size, carried on long, stiff wiry stems, the outer petals a pleasing shade of rose pink passing to yellow center suffused salmon; as the season advances this variety develops from a perfect decorative into a lovely peony dahlia—a very large flower .....Tubers	4.00
456. <b>SEÑORITA (D).</b> Immense blooms of a rich dark red, good stem, invariably a winner of prize for "largest variety".....Tubers	3.00
457. <b>SUSAN G. TEVIS (D).</b> An exceptional flower which produces great quantities of bloom throughout the season; a flower of unique coloring, being deep shade of lilac with a bluish sheen. Blossoms are formed of narrow, flat-pointed petals. A vigorous grower of dark bronze foliage. Center of attraction at all Eastern shows, where it was exhibited. Tubers .....Tubers	5.00
476. <b>THE SCREAMER (D).</b> The coloring is violet purple, suffused mauve. The giant flowers are held on long, strong stems, an exceptional dahlia .....Tubers	2.50

No.		Price
477.	THE U. S. A. (P). (Hybrid Cactus). This popular new orange colored beauty is admired by all who have seen it. Very large size, with long twisted incurved petals, making a very attractive flower; excellent bloomer .....Tubers	3.00
500.	UNCLE SAM (D). A prize winner and the sensation at the A. D. S. Show. Color, orange buff at base of petals shading to bitter-sweet pink at tips. All overlaid with a beautiful golden sheen. Center petals mustard yellow streaked with deep rose pink and beautifully curled and twisted. Reverse side of petals shaded spinel red. It is immense in size, held erect above the foliage on stiff stems .....Tubers	4.50
526.	VENUS (D). The color is a soft, beautiful shade of creamy white with lavender suffusion .....Tubers	1.50
550.	W. W. RAWSON (S). One of the most popular show dahlias. Its massive perfect flowers are borne on perfectly stiff stems. The color is pure white overlaid with amethyst. Tubers .....Tubers	.50
551.	WIZARD OF OZ (D). One of the finest dahlias, a salmon rose color shading to amber towards center; wonderful bloomer; plants covered with flowers; strong stems; a large exhibition dahlia of decorative cactus type. Tubers .....Tubers	5.00
576.	YUBAN (S). One of the largest and free flowering of show dahlias. A strong grower, carrying its flowers on long stiff stems above the foliage. Color a tawny yellow speckled with red. Great variation in coloring. A general favorite.....Tubers	.50

## SPECIAL OFFER

To those not conversant with names of Dahlias and their characters and desire to leave the selection to us, we shall be pleased to forward you a collection, giving you special values as follows:

Lot No. 1—Six (6) Tubers, one of each of the very choicest and finest Dahlias obtain- able .....	\$25.00
Lot No. 2—Twelve (12) as Lot No. 1.....	42.50
Lot No. 3—Six (6) fine large select Dahlias.....	15.00
Lot No. 4—Twelve (12) same as Lot No. 3.....	25.00
Lot No. 5—Six (6) choice fine Dahlias.....	10.00
Lot No. 6—Twelve (12) same as Lot No. 5.....	17.50
Lot No. 7—Six (6) good Dahlias.....	6.00
Lot No. 8—Twelve (12) same as Lot No. 7.....	10.00
Lot No. 9—Twelve (12). May not be new vari- eties, but nevertheless good varieties.	6.00

All of the above are good, proven varieties; no two alike.

Would also make up any other collection to suit your purposes.



